

Present: Mayor –

Absent: Mayor Joyce Hudson

Council members    Jeff Kennedy  
                              Jim Aden  
                              Tim Strauser  
                              Jeff Whiting  
City Administrator   Bruce Clymer  
City Clerk             Connie L. Dalrymple  
City Attorney         Mike Bacon

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Anne Anderson, Angie Nichols, Curt Carskadon, Eppie Sisneros, Louis Bovitz, Lyle Gronewold, Dan Martin

In the absence of Mayor Hudson, Council President Jeff Kennedy opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Advance notice and a copy of the agenda were given to the Council and members of the press. City Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is available for public inspection on the north wall of the Council Chambers.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes – February 3 and February 12  
Police Report – January  
Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – February 10

Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Strauser. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$30,953.69; Public Works Division \$312,258.43; and the February 5 payroll of \$29,999.33. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Aden, Whiting. Nay - none.

Open Forum:

- Administrator Clymer thanked Council for the employee recognition dinner and noted that Nate Baker had been named Employee of the Year for 2008.
- Curt Carskadon spoke to the Council about the possibility of widening Avenue M between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets to accommodate a walking trail. There are school students using the area as well as residents. To correctly establish a trail is should be engineered and decisions made as to width and material. Since concept of a trail system is a part of the comprehensive plan and has been discussed on several occasions, Council agreed to bring the matter to a future meeting as an agenda item.

The Clerk reported no concerns or objections to the automatic renewal of liquor licenses. Aden moved, Strauser seconded, approving the automatic renewal of liquor licenses:

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Norm Lambertus - Bar-W Lounge      | Class IB |
| R & C Petroleum dba Time Saver #18 | Class B  |
| Pizza Hut                          | Class A  |
| Pete's Lounge                      | Class I  |
| Walker's Steakhouse                | Class IB |
| Lakeside Bowl                      | Class I  |
| OK Bottle Shoppe                   | Class D  |
| Pit Stop, Inc                      | Class B  |
| Randazzle Cafe                     | Class I  |
| China Cafe                         | Class A  |
| El Paraiso II                      | Class I  |
| Pamida                             | Class D  |

Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to recommend to the Liquor Control commission, approval of a one-day license to the Chamber of Commerce to dispense beer, wine, and distilled spirits at a Business-After-Hours event sponsored by Horizon Ag on March 13, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 1900 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

The Dawson Area Development Leadership class would like to sponsor a 5K Fun Run on April 25. The proceeds will be used to send WWII veterans to Washington DC. The route is yet to be determined but the event will take place in the early morning. Council had no objection to the project.

Lyle Gronewold spoke on behalf of the Pony Express Riders Assoc. about the possibility of placing a bronze life-size statue of a Pony Express rider 40 to 50 feet west side of the Pony Express Station, as if leaving the station. Leonard Hilton talked of such a statute for many years and his estate has provided some funding to begin the project. Since 2010 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pony Express it seems appropriate to do it now. The proposed statute would be one-quarter inch thick bronze over a steel structure three feet off a base. Estimated cost is \$95,000 for the statue and \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the base. Funding would be from a statewide process.

Construction will involve some additional costs to the City, such as moving sprinkler lines, sidewalks, and lighting. Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to allow the Nebraska Pony Express Riders Association to move forward with the Pony Express rider project as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to recommend to the Liquor Control Commission the approval of a special designated license a bowling tournament at Lakeside Fun Center on March 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2009-3 amending the employee personnel policy to remove the annual floating holiday and add eight hours personal time for employees. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Aden, Strauser. Nay – none. The next meeting will be March 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

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Jeff Kennedy, Council President

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk